

## **Hooper Bay subsistence monitoring project, 2003**

**Abstract:** Yukon Area includes all waters of Alaska within the Yukon River drainage and all coastal waters of Alaska from Point Romanof southward to the Naskonat Peninsula. Because of its location south of the Yukon River, subsistence harvest information from Hooper Bay was investigated as a potential indicator of run strength and timing before chinook and summer chum salmon enter the Yukon River. During the 2003 monitoring season, 208 interviews were conducted. Catch, time fished, gillnet length and mesh size information were collected. A total of 254 chinook and 859 summer chum salmon were harvested during the monitoring period. The average Chinook salmon catch per day was eleven for fishers using large mesh gear, and the average chum salmon catch was 36 fish per day for chum gear. The mid-point of the Hooper Bay Chinook salmon subsistence fishery occurred eight days before the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Big Eddy set gillnet test fishing mid-point. For summer chum salmon, fifteen days intervened between the mid-point of the Hooper Bay subsistence and Big Eddy test fishing nets. Four years of data from the Hooper Bay subsistence-monitoring project show little or no relationship between timing and magnitude of the subsistence catch of Chinook and summer chum salmon at Hooper Bay and the Big Eddy test fish project in the Lower Yukon River. Therefore, this project was not a useful tool for fishery managers trying to get an early read on the timing and magnitude of salmon runs returning to the Lower Yukon River.

**Citation:** Crawford, D. and T. Lingnau. 2004. Hooper Bay Subsistence Monitoring Study. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, 2003 Annual Report (Study No. 00-022). Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, Anchorage, Alaska.